

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A die plate for an extrusion apparatus, the die plate comprising:

first coupling means for coupling the die plate on a first side thereof to an extruder defining a longitudinal axis, and

apertures, through which extrudate is received from the extruder and extruded for cutting into predetermined lengths by a cutter assembly disposable on said longitudinal axis, the cutter assembly having a fluid driven motor for rotating a cutter transversely to said longitudinal axis into the path of movement of extrudate so as to sever the extrudate in use,

the die plate having

second coupling means for coupling the die plate on a second side thereof to said cutter assembly,

a fluid inlet passage for receiving fluid into the die plate for delivery to said cutter assembly in use, and

a fluid outlet passage for receiving fluid from said cutter assembly for discharge from the die plate, wherein the fluid outlet passage and the fluid inlet passage comprise separate passages.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A die plate according to Claim 1 having a peripheral edge adjoining said first and second sides, the fluid inlet passage and fluid outlet passage each having a radial portion extending radially through said peripheral edge toward a central area of the die plate where each passage terminates in a respective longitudinal portion extending through said second side of the die plate.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A die plate according to Claim 1 wherein said first and second coupling means comprise a plurality of mounting openings for receiving respective fasteners through the die plate.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A die plate according to Claim 1 including thermal insulation means between the fluid inlet and outlet passages and the extrudate apertures.

Claim 5 (original): A die plate according to claim 4 wherein the thermal insulation means comprise a gap into which a gas may enter.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An assembly comprising a die plate, a cutter assembly and a fluid-driven motor,

the die plate having first coupling means for coupling the die plate on a first side thereof to an extruder that defines a longitudinal axis, and including apertures through which extrudate is received from the extruder and extruded for cutting into predetermined lengths by said cutter assembly,

the cutter assembly being disposed on said longitudinal axis and comprising a rotatable cutter driven for rotation transversely to said longitudinal axis by said motor into the path of movement of extrudate, so as to sever the extrudate,

the assembly including

second coupling means for coupling the die plate on a second side thereof to the cutter assembly,

the die plate includes a fluid inlet passage for receiving fluid for delivery to said cutter assembly and a fluid outlet passage for receiving fluid from said cutter assembly for discharge from the die plate, and

the fluid-driven motor is coupled to said second side of the die plate and is adapted to receive motor-driving fluid from said fluid inlet passage and to discharge said fluid into said fluid outlet passage.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An assembly according to Claim 6 in which the rotatable cutter includes a housing coupled for rotation to said motor, the motor being received within said housing.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the housing includes blade mounting means for supporting at least one radially extending blade having a predetermined separation from said second side of the die plate and adapted to sever extrudate emerging therefrom in use.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the first and second coupling means comprise respective oppositely directed counter-sunk openings.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the motor is a hydraulic motor.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the die plate includes thermal insulation means between the fluid inlet and outlet passages and the extrudate apertures.

Claim 12 (original): An assembly according to claim 11 wherein the insulation means comprises a gap.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An assembly according to Claim 12 wherein the gap is gas-filled.

Claims 14-16 (canceled):

Claim 17 (currently amended): A die plate for use in an extrusion apparatus, the die plate comprising:

a first coupling member for coupling the die plate on a first side thereof to an extruder defining a longitudinal axis,

apertures, through which extrudate is received from the extruder and extruded for cutting into predetermined lengths by a cutter assembly disposable on said longitudinal axis that rotates a cutter transversely to the longitudinal axis so as to sever the extrudate,

a second coupling member for coupling the die plate on a second side thereof to said cutter assembly,

a fluid inlet passage for receiving fluid into the die plate for delivery to said cutter assembly in use, and

a fluid outlet passage for receiving fluid from said cutter assembly for discharge from the die plate, wherein the fluid outlet passage and the fluid inlet passage comprise separate passages.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A die plate according to Claim 17 wherein said first and second coupling means comprise a plurality of mounting openings for receiving respective fasteners through the die plate.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An assembly comprising:

a die plate having a first coupling member for coupling the die plate on a first side thereof to an extruder that defines a longitudinal axis, and including apertures through which extrudate is received from the extruder and extruded for cutting into predetermined lengths by said cutter assembly,

a cutter assembly that is located on said longitudinal axis and comprising a rotatable cutter that rotates transversely to said longitudinal axis into the path of movement of extrudate, and a second coupling member for coupling the die plate on a second side thereof to the cutter assembly,

a die plate including a fluid inlet passage for receiving fluid for delivery to said cutter assembly and a fluid outlet passage for receiving fluid from said cutter assembly for discharge from the die plate, and

a fluid-driven motor, wherein said motor is coupled to said second side of the die plate and is adapted to receive motor-driving fluid from said fluid inlet passage and to discharge said fluid into said fluid outlet passage.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A cutter assembly for cutting extrudate comprising a positioning member for positioning the cutter assembly close to an extrudate outlet, a housing, a die plate including a fluid inlet passage for receiving fluid for delivery to said cutter assembly and a fluid outlet passage for receiving fluid from said cutter assembly for discharge from the die plate, wherein the fluid outlet passage and the fluid inlet passage comprise separate passages, a fluid-driven motor, a cutting blade that can be caused to rotate into a path of movement of extrudate emerging from the said extrudate outlet so as to sever it, and a mounting member for mounting the blade to the housing.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A cutter assembly for cutting extrudate comprising:
positioning means for coupling the cutter assembly to a die plate and for positioning said
cutter assembly close to an extrudate outlet;
a housing;
a fluid-driven motor receivable to be mountable in the housing, wherein the motor
includes a fluid inlet directed toward the die plate to receive driving fluid therefrom;
a cutting blade that, on actuation of the motor in use, is caused to rotate into a path of
movement of extrudate emerging from the said extrudate outlet so as to sever it; and
mounting means for mounting the cutting blade to the housing.